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Help in Need.

BY REV. T. NIELD.

I took my burden to the Lord
And laid it at his feet,
When faith soon found a full reward
In rest serene and sweet.

For when I laid the burden down,
I calmly left it there,
And found my cross become a crown,
That was a joy to wear.

So there, in every weary hour.
Would I my burdens lay,
To find that an Almighty power
Takes all the load away.

A Grand Future Before Us.

As I muse upon the past, present and future of the Brethren church I am lost in wonderment.

About six years ago, a few brethren who were cast out of the synagogue, looked upon as traitors, deceivers and heretics, because they boldly attacked the errors of the great "I am," (minutes of annual meeting) and earnestly contended upon the pulpit and from the press that the gospel was the only means of salvation.—Oh! how sad and gloomy were those days.—Expelled from the church of their choice and forbidden to commune with their brethren and sisters, fathers and mothers whom they so dearly loved and do love still, because they could not and their consciences would not let them "acknowledge the supremacy of annual meeting" over the gospel alone doctrine, as E. L. Prather, of California, was forced to do in order to stay in the church of his choice. (All revised minutes, p. 360.) They were discouraged, their hearts broken and bleeding, they knew not what to do. They knew as sure as they were living that they had earnestly contended for the truth and had exposed error and had a kind and loving heart toward all, even their enemies.

To go back into the church and admit to untruth, they could not; and to raise the gospel alone banner when there were but few to rally around it and fight against creeds and traditions of men would be a mighty task. They knew that as soon as they would begin to stone that wasps' nest, (creeds) over 600 denominations would raise up in arms against them. But as soon as they remembered that God and one were a majority, they took courage and unfurled the banner. Volleys of cannon balls and bombshells of error and superstition let loose upon us. "Heretics, deceivers," roared all around us. In five years you will come to naught. You can't do without a creed. The gospel will allow horse racing, but looking to our captain, (Jesus) on we went conquering and to conquer, until we have marched from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and we raised fortifications (churches) all along the line to the amount of $250,000, and have successfully held each fort. The children of Israel who when under bondage, the more they were persecuted the more they multiplied, so it seems to be with us. We have struggled long and hard, but thank the Lord—victory is near. We have lost but few and have captured many. There is a glorious future before us if we do not lose our enthusiasm as soon as the day dawns, the clouds are scattering and the rays of light are shooting forth from every side. We are getting better systematized, sending out evangelists. Many church houses have been erected, membership strengthened both spiritually and numerically, ministerial list rapidly increasing, our sisters organizing into societies and helping to push on the good cause, and the College—oh yes, the College. What about it? Well I will tell you. I begin to see rays of light shooting forth from behind the clouds that are hovering over the College. There would be no trouble about the College if it would not be for a lack of confidence.

Brethren if you were just half as ready to forgive as our Savior you would forgive those who unintentionly erred in behalf of the College. Their motives doubtless were good. Many of you who are so ready to censure them. Doubtless if you were placed in the same dilemma, would have erred quite as much as they. I had lost confidence at one time, but I was honest enough to investigate, and the scales fell from my eyes. There is nothing complicated about it now, a child can learn to know all about it now if he wants to.

You brethren that declared that you would not do any thing more for the College, do as the young man did we read of in the Bible. When Christ told him to go he said he wouldn't, afterward repented and went. "Go ye and do like wise." If you would have tried long ago to gain that confidence, half as hard as you are trying not to gain it, you would have succeeded long ago. Brethren now please don't be wilfully ignorant. If I had eight or ten thousand dollars to loan out, I would loan it to the College and take a mortgage on it. I would not want a better or more safe place to invest my money. A College that cost $100,000, and almost as good as new, a man would run no risk to take a mortgage of $10,000. You men that loan money to speculators at 6% interest, why not loan it to a College that will pay you just as much interest, just as safe, and will advance the cause of Christ and thus pay you interest in heaven besides.

If some of you knew the advantage of our College you would furnish the money. There is a glorious future for the College if we can keep it. "If" did I say? We can keep it, and by the grace of God we will pay for it too. If you rich men shut your bowels of compassion against it, we poor men will pay for it, if we will have to live on bread and water awhile. We will be rewarded when over there, when "ye rich men weep and howl for the miseries that shall come up on you."

If you rich men would help, we could gain the victory sooner. But if you wont help we will struggle on until we pay for it, then we will know how to appreciate it, and the rich will not find out how much they have lost by not helping us until they reach the other world.

Bro. Copp says it will soon be disposed of one way or the other. Yes it will soon be disposed one way, and that will be by keeping it, unless practical prayers and intellectual struggles avail nothing.

I don't believe the Lord will let us stick. He has helped us through greater struggles than this and I believe he will help us through this one.

I suggest that Bro. Copp help us by giving himself, then solicit for the College. What say you Bro. Copp?

I am sure of success because our last solicitors have started out with a determination to gain the victory. Those solicitors are the rays of light that are now shining from behind the clouds, and by the grace of God those rays will come out from behind them soon and the College will shine in its beauty.

Brethren lets all make a little sacrifice for the College and pay for it, then we can go on to victory.

Another reason I have such bright hopes for the future is because we seem to be so well united upon the fundamental principles of the doctrine of Christ. I am so glad that we all as far as I know, agree upon faith, repentance, gospel baptism, which undoubtedly is trine immersion, laying on of hands, feet washing, Lord's supper, communion, all the Christain graces, and no creed but the gospel. I think it is really wonderful that we are so well united upon all these truths, because in the last six years, we have been receiving into the church those who had been infidels, Roman Catholics, German Baptists, United Brethren, Methodists, Disciples, Baptists, etc. "Many men of many minds." All have throwed away their colored glasses and all "obey from the heart that form of doctrine" that Christ gave to us. Its true we differ on some minor points. So do all wise men. If we knew all the truth we could not grow in "the knowledge of the truth." We agree upon all the "first principles," Heb. 6, 1-2. Now we are to go on to prefection. Some of us are nearer perfection than others. Hence some have learned more than others. But we all came in by the door into the sheep-fold, (hypocrite excepted) and are all in, and all learners together. And by reading and searching and praying and friendly controversy, can become more and more of the same mind.

Doubtless a few congregations have their troubles, but as a body we are better united today than we ever were. Therefore as we have wonderfully prospered in the past and in every way better fitted for the future, there is a grand future before us.

Oh when we look back over our past history and see the dark clouds that we passed through and how the Lord led us and worked every thing in our favor, do we not feel like praising his holy name? Ought we not consecrate our whole lives unto him, give him our whole hearts, and work harder in the future than we have in the past for what he has done for us? How many of us will? May God help us to do so.

ISAAC D. BOWMAN.

Hit and Miss.

The title of our contribution may not seem very suggestive of edification, but to our mind it is very appropriate because like many more writers, we can miss more than we can hit.

To write of our Indiana conference at this late date may be more of a miss than a hit, but the conference itself was somewhat of a hit and miss affair from beginning to end. Those who attended, hit a very good thing. Those who were afraid of getting hit and stayed at home, missed a pleasant social affair, one that shall form a very important episode in the history of the Brethren church of Indiana.

Those of us who were present tried to hit some things needful for better and more effective work among us, but our aim is not always sure and we made some misses. The one referred to by Bro. Swihart in No. 40 of the EVANGELIST is a serious one. But would amend his motion to have our state evangelist, J. H. Swihart, fill said duties until conference convene next year.

Another miss was our failure to suggest methods for the improvement of our church paper after we had passed a resolution to do so. One thing is certain; i. e., if our church periodical is not what we would like it to be, the blame rests with us as a body, not with any single individual member, either connected or disconnected with its publication. If the church does not want to take the publication of its periodical into its own hands, it ought to be satisfied with what is being done. No amount of grumbling, fault-finding and cold water pouring will ever give us a better paper or win for us the favor of the public. Then why do we persist in doing so? Come brethren, throw down your cudgel, give that scowl away for a smile, pull that arrow of envy out of your bosom and pour the oil of love and forbearance into the wound. We need more church news, more edifying articles. But who shall do the work. The editor can not go after the one nor write all the others, neither can he hire others to do the work for him. If the church can not hire the work done she must do it herself. The latter can not be done without some plan by which all may work, for what is everybody's business is nobody's business. Therefore, I suggest that every church appoint a competent person to act as a correspondent for the paper, said person to report the condition and amount of work done by his church, at least every quarter. Let every minister be pledged to write an edifying article, at least once a month. By edifying articles we mean such writings as will infuse love, energy and zeal into the hearts of our members, such as will arouse the indolent to action, and the careless to a full sense of their peril; such articles as when read by the unconverted will convince him that we are a God-fearing and a God-serving people and not a band of contentious, self-willed egotists. Don't say "heal thyself." I am conscious that I have done but little. The only reason has been that I did not want to occupy room that others were more able to occupy. But if all the other ministers are harnessed up I will try and keep my tugs straight even if I can not pull much.

Our little band was made to rejoice by the addition of one more soul to our number several weeks ago. So you see the cause of Christ is still moving onward, though the load be heavy and the way up grade.

Some time ago we received a call from Bro. Massena to assist in a series of meetings at LaPaz. We responded to the call and went on the 8th inst. The Wesleyan Methodists kindly permitted us to use their house of worship. God bless them for their kindness. Political excitement was running high, and for several evenings it looked as if between politics and indifference on the part of many citizens, we would have to import an audience if we wanted one. Nothing discouraged, however, we unsheathed the sword of the spirit and thrust away at the few present, believing that the sound of battle would induce others to come near. Moreover, we had not set up in our own name but in the name of the Lord. In him we put our trust and for him we labored that at least we might sow and then if it were his will, an increase might be expected: nor were we disappointed. Two souls were made to believe, repented and were baptized. Closed with large attendance and deep feeling. May God bless the little band of brethren at La Paz. They have been storm-tossed these many years. Hold fast the profession ye have made. The haven will be reached at last. Christ our captain never lost a soul that was faithful and trusting. If we live with him and for him, we shall hit heaven and not miss it.

L. W. DITCH.

South Bend, Ind., Oct. 25, '88.

One good thought retained and ninety-nine bad ones let go, and we would be better off.

A man without earnestness is a mournful and perplexing spectacle. But it is a consolation to believe, as we must of such a one, that he is in the most effectual and compulsive of all schools.—Sterling.

jan88—If the date printed with your name on your paper reads Jan. 88, it means your paper has not been paid for this year, and that we need the money.